



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

REGION VIII

999 18th STREET - SUITE 500
DENVER, COLORADO 80202-2405

DEC 16 1991

Ref: 8HWM-FF

Mr. Frazer Lockhart
U.S. Department of Energy
Rocky Flats Office
P.O. Box 928
Golden, CO 80402

Dear Mr. Lockhart:

It has come to our attention that the Department of Energy (DOE) intends to undertake a maintenance project on the south interceptor ditch (SID) at the Rocky Flats Plant. We understand that the first phase entails burning existing vegetation within the SID and the second phase involves excavation and dredging of the SID to recover the design flow capacity of the channel.

These planned activities are within the boundaries of Operable Unit 5 (OU 5) and appear to be inconsistent with the planned remedial investigation activities described in the Final Phase I RFI/RI Workplan for OU 5. In addition, we are concerned about the possibility that the maintenance activities may release hazardous substances into the environment and/or that improper handling of the dredged sediments may constitute a violation of land disposal restrictions. We request that DOE provide EPA and the Colorado Department of Health with detailed information on the project scope and schedule. We are also particularly interested in DOE's current knowledge about the presence and characterization of hazardous substances in the SID sediments, the potential risk to human health and the environment due to the proposed activities, and the impact on the OU 5 remedial investigation from disturbance of the sediment sampling locations within the SID.

Please submit the requested information no later than December 20, 1991. Our point of contact on this matter is Bonnie Lavelle, (303)294-1067.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Martin Hestmark".

Martin Hestmark, Manager
Rocky Flats Project